Application No.: 09/883,123

Response to Office Action of 03/18/2004 Attorney Docket: WDUMR-022US

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A system of parsing unstructured or partially structured data; said system processing at least portions of said data in an incremental manner.

- 2. (Original) The system of Claim 1 wherein said processing in an incremental manner comprises multiple parsing steps, each parsing step performed by consulting an inference engine.
- 3. (Previously presented) A knowledge base for use in association with the system of Claim 1, said knowledge base analyzing said data at one or more predefined levels of analysis.
- 4. (Original) The knowledge base of Claim 3 wherein said levels include a level of analysis at a lexico-grammatical level.
- 5. (Original) The knowledge base of Claim 3 wherein said levels include a level of analysis at an orthographic level.
- 6. (Original) The knowledge base of Claim 3 wherein said levels include a level of analysis at a semantic level.
- 7. (Original) The knowledge base of Claim 3 wherein said levels include a level of analysis at a contextual level.
- 8. (Original) The knowledge base of Claim 3 wherein said knowledge base uses a knowledge representation language which embodies linguistic theory.
- 9. (Original) The knowledge base of Claim 8 wherein said linguistic theory is that of systematic functional linguistics
- 10. (Previously presented) The knowledge base of Claims 8 wherein said linguistic theory enables the complete representation of all possible forms of said data.
- 11. (Original) The knowledge base of Claim 10 wherein said data is attribute data.
- 12. (Original) The knowledge base of Claim 11 wherein said attribute data is name and address data.
- 13. (Withdrawn) A method of parsing an attribute data set; said method comprising incrementally refining elements of said data set until a predefined level of meaning is determined.

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- 14. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 13 wherein said step of incrementally refining said elements includes execution of an elaboration operator.
- 15. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 13 wherein said step of incrementally refining said elements includes execution of an encapsulation operator.
- 16. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 13 wherein said step of incrementally refining said elements includes execution of an enhancement operator.
- 17. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 13 wherein said step of incrementally refining said elements includes execution of an entailment operator.
- 18. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 13 wherein said step of incrementally refining said elements includes execution of an extension operator.
- 19. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 13 wherein a best-first searching algorithm is utilized.
- 20. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 13 wherein a look-ahead algorithm is utilized.
- 21. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 1 wherein an inference strategy is utilized.
- 22. (Withdrawn) A system for processing an unstructured or partially structured set of data so as to obtain a set of structured data; said system comprising a parser engine in communication with a knowledge database.
- 23. (Withdrawn) The system of Claim 22 wherein said parser engine is reliant on data in the form of knowledge retained in said knowledge database.
- 24. (Withdrawn) The system of Claim 22 further including a temporary data store associated with said parser engine.
- 25. (Withdrawn) The system of Claim 24 further including a data block identifier which provides input to said parser engine.
- 26. (Withdrawn) The system of Claim 25 wherein said data block identifier breaks said set of unstructured data into a plurality of data blocks for input to said parser engine.
- 27. (Withdrawn) The system of Claim 26 wherein said parser receives consecutive ones of said data blocks and performs a first association step on said data blocks based on knowledge derived from said knowledge database so as to derive a first postulated

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categorization of said data blocks and storing said data blocks thereby categorized in said temporary storage means.

- 28. (Withdrawn) The system of Claim 27 wherein said parser engine performs a confirmation step on said data blocks stored in said temporary storage means so as to either confirm or reject its categorization of said data blocks.
- 29. (Withdrawn) The system of Claim 22 wherein said knowledge base includes knowledge about the information structures of identifying attribute objects.
- 30. (Withdrawn) The system of Claim 22 wherein said knowledge database includes knowledge about an association between patterns and the identifying attribute objects they represent.
- 31. (Withdrawn) The system of Claim 22 wherein a precedence of alternative solutions has been precompiled in said knowledge database thereby to allow best-first searching to be performed by said parser engine.
- 32. (Withdrawn) The system of Claim 22 wherein said parser engine utilizes a best-first searching algorithm.
- 33. (Withdrawn) The system of Claim 22 wherein said parser engine utilizes a look-ahead algorithm.
- 34. (Withdrawn) The system of Claim 22 wherein said parser engine utilizes an inference strategy.
- 35. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 1 wherein said data comprises attribute data.
- 36. (Original) The system of Claim 35 wherein said attribute data comprises name and address data.
- 37. (Withdrawn) The system of Claim 22 wherein said data comprises attribute data.
- 38. (Withdrawn) The system of Claim 37 wherein said attribute data comprises name and address data.